



Attorney Docket No. 01275/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): T. NITSUMA et al
Serial No. : 09/851,705
Filed : May 9, 2001
For : IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM
Art Unit : 2852
Examiner : PHAM, THIERRY L

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)
AND STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a European Search Report dated December 29, 2004, issued in the counterpart European application;
- (2) Copies of cited publications (except U.S. patents and publications); and
- (3) Form PTO/SB/08A.

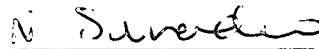
The European Search Report is in English, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

Items B, D, E and F are related U.S. counterparts of items H, J, I, L and K respectively. See the listing of family members in the Annex to the EPSR.

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I hereby certify the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231


Nalini P. Sahadeo

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by credit card payment, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e) (1)

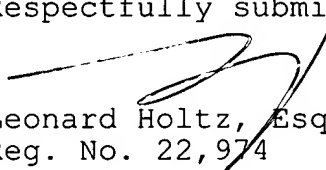
Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of December 29, 2004. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in said communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement.

It is requested that an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,


Leonard Holtz, Esq.
Reg. No. 22,974

Encls.

Dated: January 13, 2005

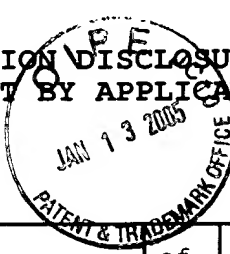
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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT 		Application Number	09/851,705		
		Filing Date	May 9, 2001		
		First Named Inventor	T. NIITSUMA		
		Group Art Unit	2624		
		Examiner Name	PHAM, THIERRY L		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	01275/LH

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits ¹	Cite No ²	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
	A	5,377,016	A	KASHIWAGI et al	12-27-1994	
	B	5,666,489	A	FITE, JR. et al	09-09-1997	
	C	5,974,233	A	NISHIYAMA et al	10-26-1999	
	D	6,137,588	A	DEEN et al	10-24-2000	
	E	6,188,807	B1	ARAKAWA	02-13-2001	
	F	6,412,022	B1	KUMPF et al	06-25-2002	
	G	6,434,343	B1	KOBAYASHI et al	08-13-2002	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam Inits	Cite No ²	Offc ³	Document Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T ⁶
	H	EP	0 691 782	A2	FITE JR.	01-10-1996		
	I	EP	0 767 575	A2	ARAKAWA	04-09-1997		
	J	EP	0 814 424	A1	DEEN et al	12-29-1997		
	K	DE	198 32 768	A1	KOBAYASHI et al	07-15-1999		
	L	EP	0 991 256	A2	KUMPF et al	04-05-2000		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Unique citation designation number. See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIFO Standard ST. 16 if possible. Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: January 13, 2005